

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

ATLANTIC COUNTY

September 23, 2016

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 800
Trenton, NJ 08625-0800

This Notice is related to Federal assistance provided in response to the Presidentially-declared disaster, Superstorm Sandy. This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA).

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 3, 2016, the DCA will submit a request to HUD for the release of Federal funds under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) pursuant to the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-2, approved January 29, 2013) for the Stronger NJ Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program. DCA expects to fund the project using approximately \$285,410.18 of Stronger NJ RREM Program funds.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Application ID number: RRE0024663R

Project Title: 326 N Dorset Ave

Location: 326 N Dorset Ave, Ventnor City, NJ

The total estimated project cost is \$285,410.18.

The proposed project is located at 326 N. Dorset Avenue, Ventnor City, Atlantic County.

The project involves demolition of an existing single-family residential structure built in 1964, subdivision of an 8,000 square-foot lot into two 4,000 square-foot lots, and new construction of a 1,215-square foot residential structure within the north portion of the revised lot configuration.

The lot is located entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area (A Zone) on the existing FIRM (FM34532600001B). The proposed project would remove and replace a building on a residential site which has been damaged by flooding. The proposed project would neither aggravate current hazards to the floodplain nor disrupt floodplain values.

The Responsible Entity, DCA, has determined that the proposed project is Categorically Excluded Subject to §58.5 authorities per 24 CFR 58.35(a). As such, a Statutory Checklist has

been completed in order to determine whether the project is in compliance with the authorities cited at 24 CFR§58.5.

Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record on file at the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Sandy Recovery Division, 101 South Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. or can be viewed online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/>.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the DCA has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under HUD grant number B-13-DS-34-0001.

The proposed project is located at 326 N Dorset Ave, Ventnor City, New Jersey. The proposed project involves demolition of an existing single-family residential structure, subdivision of an 8,000 square-foot lot, and new construction of a 1,215-square foot residential structure within a portion of the revised lot configuration. The lot is located entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area (A Zone) on the existing Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel FM34532600001B. The proposed project would remove and replace a building on a residential site which has been damaged by flooding.

DCA has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values. One alternative is to relocate the project outside of the 100-year floodplain. However, because the project is intended to remove and replace a building on a residential site which has been damaged by flooding, it is functionally dependent on being located at the current site. As a consequence, relocating this project to another area, outside of the floodplain, is infeasible.

A No Action alternative was considered and rejected because the No Action alternative would not satisfy the intent of the Stronger NJ RREM Program to provide funds for homeowners to conduct activities necessary to restore their storm-damaged homes, thereby addressing the post-Sandy economic recovery needs of affected communities. Under this alternative, the applicant would not be provided financial assistance to conduct necessary disaster recovery activities at the site. No other practicable alternatives were identified.

DCA has determined that construction and operation of the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of floodwaters on the project site or surrounding areas. Based on the scope of the proposed project, there would be no significant adverse impacts to flood levels, flood risk, or the flow of flood waters on the project site or surrounding areas. The demolition and reconstruction of a residential building will not adversely impact the floodway and or increase the risk of loss of life or property. The project would not result in additional flood risk or present potential adverse impacts to lives, property, and natural values within the floodplain, and the beneficial effects of the project would support the long-term recovery needs of a community affected by Superstorm Sandy.

DCA has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location described in the Public Comments section of this notice.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Laura Shea, Assistant Commissioner, New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 800, Trenton, NJ 08625-0800 or online at <http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/sandyrecovery/review/> and to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. All comments received by October 3, 2016, or seven (7) days from the actual date of publication, whichever is later, will be considered by DCA. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

DCA certifies to HUD that Charles A. Richman, in his capacity as Commissioner of DCA consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act and related laws and authorities, and allows DCA to use CDBG-DR funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and DCA's certification for a period of seven (7) days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of DCA; (b) DCA has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency, acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504, has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the

required procedures (24 CFR Part 58.76) and shall be addressed to Tennille Smith Parker, DRS, Acting Division Director, HUD, 451 Seventh Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20410. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Commissioner Charles A. Richman
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs